

The Code

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1

INT. OFFICE - DAY

1

ARTHUR (younger, nice suit, glasses, too much hair gel) sits at a desk as a new hire, along side ALEX (20s relatively comparable to Arthur). OBRIEN (older nice suit, doesn't smile ) is talking at them as they sit in silence. Obriens desk is very well kept and organized.

OBRIEN

Okay fellas, any other questions before we send you to the dogs? It's not a easy place to be. If you want to work here you have to fight for it. No one is going to hold your hand, go get started.

OBrien looks down at his desk and begins shuffling papers about.

ARTHUR

I want to thank you for the opp-

OBrien looks up.

OBRIEN

You aren't getting paid to blow smoke up my ass. Now get to work.

2

INT. HALLWAY- DAY

2

Arthur and Alex walk down the hall, looking for their stations.

ARTHUR

This is a big place.

ALEX

This is nothing. You should've seen my university. A single class had hundreds of people. This is exactly where I belong. Don't be scared, Ill hold your hand.

Arthur shakes off Alex and arrives at his station.

ARTHUR

It was nice to meet you. Ill catch you at lunch.

Alex walks past Arthur just to sit on the other side of him.

ALEX  
Looks like Im right here. Nice and  
close!

Arthur sets out a picture, a stapler, a 3-hole punch, and a toy in a very distinct manor. Alex notices this as Obrien arrives to their desks.

ALEX  
Obrien  
(Alex stands)  
How may I help you?

Obrien ignores Alex and turns soley to Arthur

OBRIEN  
Arthur. I need you to get to the  
2nd floor. We have a computer  
emergency something about  
firewalls. I dont care, Just get it  
fixed.

As Arthur walks down the hall he catches a glimpse of an attractive TEMP. Alex unhappy by Obrien choosing Arthur.

3 INT. OFFICE - DAY

3

Alex leans to Arthurs desk, smacking him on the back of the head, knocking over his stapler, messing with him annoyingly.

ALEX  
Hey. I heard you fixed the bug in  
HR. I bet that made The Big Man  
happy. Boy, this place is bor-ing.  
What if you and I make things a bit  
more fun?

Alex grabs the toy off Arthurs desk and begins throwing it in the air.

ARTHUR  
I don't think that's a good idea.  
We just started. We should probably  
just do what we're told. I don't  
think Mr. OBrien would like that.

Alex shoves over Arthurs well maintained desk necessities.

ALEX  
Do you always do what you're told?  
We could be the office pranksters.  
A dynamic duo if you will.

Alex turns towards another desk and looks back at Arthur.  
Arthur begins cleaning up his desk.

I think I'll start by letting this  
guy know you think he looks like a  
faggot with that bolo tie.

Alex mumbles to EMPLOYEE. Employee storms into OBriens  
office.

OBrien steps out of his office.

O BRIEN

Arthur! You may not speak to your  
fellow employees in that manner!  
You are not a school boy anymore.

ARTHUR

Mr. O'Brien,  
(Arthur gets choked up)  
Sir, I promise you, I didn't-

O BRIEN

Promises don't work here. Get your  
shit together. I have zero patience  
to babysit, I have better things to  
do.

(OBrien storms off)

Alex is in the background and begins laughing at Arthur as  
he lowers his head and slinks to his desk. Alex leans over  
to his desk and puts the toy back down.

ALEX

Wow, thats a tough break. Im sorry  
that happened to you.

4 INT. OFFICE - DAY

4

Arthur walks into the office to see Alex and OBrien talking.  
Alex is posted up on Arthurs desk and has knocked over some  
of Arthurs things. Arthur walks up to them.

ARTHUR

Good morning sir, Alex.

O BRIEN

Arthur glad to see you could  
finally join us. I thought we were  
going to have to soldier on without  
you.

CUT TO

INSERT OF A CLOCK READING 7:45 AM.

ARTHUR

Im sorry sir, Ill be earlier tomorrow. But work does begin at 8 correct?

OBRIEN

Arthur. If you want to make a name

Alex begins mocking Obrien from behind while Arthur watches.  
for yourself, you are going to have to do what others wont.

OBrien turns-

Alex, here beat me to work this morning.

Arthur rolls his eyes and Obrien catches him.  
But, as I can tell you aren't interested in a career here. Im sure some other company would hire you if you'd-

ARTHUR

No sir, I didn't mean. I mean, I appreciate your advice.

Alex laughs in the back while Arthur sits at his desk frustrated and straightens his belongings.

ARTHUR PRESENT VO

That's when I knew the corporate world was tough. I began compiling rules I thought would be of use.

Arthur scribbles on a piece of paper

FADE OUT

5

INT. OFFICE - DAY

5

Arthur walks to his desk with a cup of coffee and sits down, at his desk printing out a massive report. Takes it out of the printer, neatly stacks it, lifts the stapler to find out there are no staples. frustrated he looks at Alex but he catches the temp walking down the hall, he is completely love struck. Alex watches Arthurs face, straightens his tie and walks after the temp.

FADE OUT

ALEX

Have you seen the new temp? Woah, she is a fine piece.

ARTHUR

Yes, she is really pretty. I think  
Im going to try and talk to her.

ALEX

Do you want me to put a good word  
in for you? Im really good with  
women!

ARTHUR

46 one night stands doesnt mean  
youre good with women. Only that  
last call is a desperate cry for  
attention.

ALEX

Well she may not be my type. I  
tried getting with her in the  
storage closet and she wouldn't  
even talk to me.

ARTHUR

Well maybe she just doesn't like  
creeps.

ALEX

But really? Who wouldn't want a  
piece of this?

Arthur scribbles on a piece of paper and looks off in the  
direction that her desk is in.

6 INT. HALLWAY- DAY - FLASHBACK

6

Arthur catches Alex taking his staples and tape from his  
desk. Arthur pretends not to notice.

ARTHUR

Hey. Wanna get a drink later? I  
could use one. I just can't seem to  
get a leg up on OBrien. He's been  
on my case about everything.

ALEX

Yeah, cool.

Alex walks towards the temp and begins putting the moves on  
her.

FADE OUT

Alex jumps at Arthur sitting in his desk. Frightening Arthur  
as he is on the phone.

ALEX

Ive never seen someone go through office supplies as much as you do! I meant to tell you earlier, but I can't go out tonight I forgot I have a prior engagement.

ARTHUR

Yeah no problem, Im gonna head out.

Arthur begins to gather his belongings. Obrien walks from his office, Alex sits down.

OBRIEN

Arthur, Im getting really tired of your shit. I didn't know you left early on days you arrived late? EVERYBODY? Is it fair that you all have to be on time when others believe they can make their own schedules? Arthur, I think it is only fair that you stay an extra 2 hours this evening. Everybody else may leave.

ALEX

Tough break. See ya later.

Arthur reluctantly sits back at his desk. Scribbles on a piece of paper. Straightens his desk area.

FADE OUT

7

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

7

Arthur sits at his desk. His tie is half off, shirt untucked, hair a mess. Spots the Temp walking down the hall. he tries to clean himself up. He begins to walk towards her and he sees Alex coming up behind her, and gently touching her arm.

ARTHUR PRESENT VO

I knew he was a lousy person and I should've guessed he would go after her. But I thought, I don't know what I thought.

Arthur walks back to his desk, catching eyes with Alex. Alex smacks him as he walks by.

ALEX

Hey man, I uh didn't think you'd still be here. Sorry you had to stay late. Lee forgot her phone.

ARTHUR

Yeah. You look real sorry. What happened to putting in a good word for me?

ALEX

No hard feelings, but she's hot. You couldn't get her if you tried. You just really aren't a closer. You never stand up for yourself and you take the fall for everything, and let The Big Man push you around. But, hey what do I know. Have a good night.

Alex laughs smacks Arthurs arm and walks to Lee waiting for him.

8 INT. OFFICE - DAY

8

Arthur arrives to his desk, pulls out a stack of papers from his briefcase, separates them and waits for OBrien.

CUT TO

INSERT TWO BOUND PAPER STACKS

ARTHUR PRESENT VO

I knew I couldn't let Alex win but I wasn't sure what to do. But I knew I had to win OBrien over.

Arthur jumps up at the arrival of OBrien, and fumbles for the stack of papers.

ARTHUR

Sir! I have this weeks report for you. Id like to note that it is early.

OBRIEN

Congratulations, you can do your job. Thats what happens when you put a full days work in.

OBrien leaves Arthur. Arthur discouraged begins his work. Arthur scribbles on a piece of paper

FADE OUT

Arthur answers his phone.

Cut to shot of OBrien on the phone.

ARTHUR

Yes, yes, yes sir, right away sir.

Arthur gets up and walks into OBriens office.

9

INT. OBRIENS OFFICE

9

Obrien flips through a bound report. Arthur takes a seat.

OBRIEN

You said the report was ready.

ARTHUR

Yes sir, I gave it to you earlier.  
Is there a problem with it?

OBRIEN

Yes, This isn't the weekly report.  
What is this?

OBrien thumbs through the pages.

"THE CODE" What is the code?

ARTHUR

Oh, sir I am terribly sorry. It's  
my personal property. I must've  
accidentally swapped it for your  
report. Let me go-

OBRIEN

No Arthur. Explain this.

ARTHUR

Well. Sir, I want to first begin by  
saying that I don't mean any  
disrespect.

OBRIEN

Im a busy man Arthur. What is your  
point.

ARTHUR

Well uh, since Ive worked here I've  
found that people aren't very nice.  
I've had my food eaten from the  
break-room three times, I get in  
trouble for everyones behavior  
constantly, Im the only person that  
is honest with you sir, so Im the  
only one who gets yelled at. I  
wrote that book as a way to help  
employees. Not only to bring them  
together but to give some

ARTHUR

responsibility for one another. I stay late constantly, Sir. Im the only one who fessed up to leaving early. Everyone leaves early, yourself included. I think its only fair that everyone works by the same set of rules so I created that book. I never meant for you to see it. Please don't think poorly of me. I only want to help. It isn't even finished.

OBRIEN

Arthur. I know you don't do everything you get in trouble for. I don't care that you are the only one stupid enough to take punishment. I have people to answer to above me and I don't have the time to keep track of your petty schnanegains. But you have great integrity, and morals. I've been stuck in this position since you started. Since you started I have been looking for a replacement for myself. This book is good. It shows character, and a camaraderie for your coworkers. I want you to replace me. But first you need to display some authority with your peers. If they don't respect you, or atleast fear you, you'll never make it. You are dismissed.

Arthur begins to walk out very confused.

Arthur. This conversation stays between us.

10 INT. OFFICE - DAY - FLASH BACK

10

Arthur sits at his desk planning his next move. Alex walks by with a cup of coffee and smirks at Arthur as he walks to the temp. Arthur scribbles on a piece of paper, gets up and follows Alex.

ARTHUR

Lee. I believe we haven't been properly introduced, Im Arthur. I think it's great that you know Alex is a man whore but you are still willing to be with him.

LEE  
Alex, What is he talking about?

ARTHUR  
Oh, Im sorry. I assumed you knew.  
Alex, you have told her that she'll  
be number 50?

Lee shrieks at Alex and storms off. Arthur walks away.

FADE OUT

Alex storms into OBriens office. Arthur watches.

ARTHUR PRESENT VO  
I knew I was getting in trouble. I  
didn't know what for. But I knew it  
was coming.

OBRIEN (OS)  
ARTHUR! NOW.

Arthur walks into the office. Alex walks out.

OBRIEN  
Arthur sit.

OBRIEN  
What have you done to Alex? He  
seems upset.  
(Laughs)

ARTHUR  
Well. I just let Lee know that Alex  
is a sex addict. I just wanted to  
look out my fellow employees!

OBRIEN  
Well.

ARTHUR  
Sir.

OBRIEN  
Arthur. That is hilarious.

OBrien shakes his hand at Arthur.  
This is me yelling at you and being  
angry. Now get out. And don't look  
happy.

ARTHUR

Yes Sir.

Arthur stands, straightens his chair, puts a expressionless look on his face and walks out.

11 INT. OFFICE - DAY

11

Arthur sits at his desk, straightening things. Looks up and sees Alex attempting to smooth things over with Lee. Arthur gets up and walks towards them.

ARTHUR

Is everything okay? I couldn't help but see a scene being made.

ALEX

It's none of your business.

LEE

There's nothing going on. He won't leave me alone-

ALEX

Just let me explain. He's a liar.

ARTHUR

Lee. Would you like to report this?

O'Brien walks out of the office and watches.  
This company doesn't allow for that kind of behavior.

ALEX

What behavior? There is no behavior to report. You're a lying Son Of A-

OBRIEN

ALEX. Office.

ARTHUR PRESENT VO

See. When you act like a douchebag you deserve to have a crappy day.

12 INT- HALLWAY- DAY

12

NATHANIEL walks down a hall arriving at an office.

Arthur (Mid 30s, nice suit no tie, and the top button undone) motions Nathaniel (20s, way too much hair gel and a new suit/tie with tag) to sit.

ARTHUR

Welcome to the graphics department. Here you will work with your division to design and sell your logos to some of the most lucrative companies in the world. I think it is best to start with any questions you may have.

NATHANIEL

Im really honored to be here, the application process was extensive.

ARTHUR

Yes, we don't hire just anyone.

Arthur looks relieved

Don't think that makes you a member of this team yet. You still have a lot to learn.

NATHANIEL

Is there anything I can do to speed this process along? I would like to get to work. I have some really great ideas.

ARTHUR

Slow down! This company is incredibly competitive. Back when I started this place wasn't any fun.

Alex walks in a delivers a folder. And walks out.

I would like you to read and sign the back of this before you get started. If you have a problem with anything in there. My good friend Alex would be more than happy to explain to you.

Nathaniel turns to see Alex. Freeze on Alex.

THE END